

Company have done an excellent job of printing and binding and of reproducing good illustrations well.

You may not have the time nor the inclination to pick up your gynecological pathology where you left off during your student days. Nor may you find the time to slave away at the microscope to learn the intricacies of pathological diagnosis, but you can find time to read Novak's enlightening book. It will give you an insight into the subject which will make it easy for you to evaluate your pathologist's reports, not to speak of the better understanding it will give you of the disturbances you treat or operate upon. All in all, Novak's book, if read intelligently, is like taking a postgraduate course in gynecologic pathology in a comfortable chair by your fireside.

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INTRODUCTION TO SURGERY. By Virginia Kneeland Frantz, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Associate Attending Surgical Pathologist, Presbyterian Hospital, New York, and Harold Dortch Harvey, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Assistant Attending Surgeon, Presbyterian Hospital, New York. Copyright 1946. Oxford University Press, New York. Price \$2.50.

This new book presents the most refreshing approach to the understanding of the principles of surgery that the reviewer has seen. It has been written primarily to aid the medical student as he is introduced to the surgical branch of medicine. But its context will be of great benefit to teachers of surgery, to doctors who practice surgery and to all physicians who should have at least an acquaintance in surgery.

Simple, clear language and steadfast adherence to fact stimulate the reader's interest. Honesty and open-mindedness in evaluation of surgical treatment and theory encourage him to share the author's zeal to seek understanding. The purpose of the treatise, and the manner in which it is constructed can be realized from these quotations, taken from the introductory paragraphs. "We offer the student beginning the study of modern surgery certain fundamental observations on the response of the tissues of the body to various types of injury, and the repair that follows . . ." "Surgery is defined as that branch of medicine which attempts: 1. To assist the body to repair injuries. 2. To improve anatomical deformities and physiological derangements. 3. To assist the body in overcoming certain infections. 4. To remove or destroy certain neoplasms."

Elsewhere in the introduction, there is explanation for many of the problems that baffle the beginning student in surgery, such as the reason why surgical terminology sometimes is at variance with that of other branches of medicine. The authors stress the importance of observation and of clinical experience as the basis for each individual's concept of surgical disease and treatment. They offer the reminder that the surgeon also must be concerned with other branches of medicine, for surgical disease oftentimes exists concomitantly with "non-surgical" disease. After the general introduc-

tory remarks, the evolution and the present day knowledge of surgery is then unfolded in systematic sequence.

In a concise seven pages, the history of surgery is reviewed from 1550 B.C. through the Golden Age of Greece, the Dark Ages and the Renaissance to the three great surgeons of all time: Paré, John Hunter and Lister. The reader notices that surgery began with the study of infections and injuries which occurred in areas of the body that could be observed objectively. He may reflect that the knowledge of these same phenomena is just as fundamental in present day surgery. He may find it interesting that the repression of surgery by the Church in the Dark Ages became the origin for the practice of minor surgery by barbers.

After the historical review, the book is divided into eight sections which are arranged to fulfill the definition of surgery as indicated in paragraph two of this review. The authors are careful first to establish the truth or what is known of the truth, and, second, to present familiar examples of the process or disease under discussion with brief generalizations as to treatment. Among the latter are included chemotherapeutic and antibiotic agents whose proven actions are stated with particular honesty. The doubtful and "hoped-for" actions of these drugs are omitted.

The basic principles of surgery include the pathology of injury and inflammation and the physiology of repair of all types of tissues from these processes. The mechanism of infections of all kinds is reviewed, and the problem of surgical drainage is clarified. Separate sections are devoted to foreign bodies, wounds, ulcers, burns and gangrene. The final section is concerned with hemorrhage and shock, with the clinical aspects of a carefully taken history and of a properly performed physical examination, and with a word of stimulation to the reader for experimental surgery.

Efficiency of expression and not brevity is the premium for the entire monograph. The reader will feel great respect for the considerable labor by the authors which produced this introduction to surgery so completely, so clearly, so well-organized.

N.B. Typographical error, last line of last paragraph of page 107, *apportunity* instead of opportunity.

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CUSHNY'S PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS. Thirteenth Edition, thoroughly revised by Arthur Grollman, A.B., Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.P., and Donald Slaughter, B.S., M.D. Illustrated with 74 engravings. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia. 1947. Price \$8.50.

This revision of a standard reference book in Pharmacology and Therapeutics is the most recent and best work of its kind which has appeared since the war. It will be an invaluable aid to the practicing physician and student alike, who desire to learn of recent advances in such agents as: curare and its modifications, histamine and anti-histamine compounds, folic acid, the antimalarials—chloroquine and paludrine, dimercaprol (B.A.L.) as an antidote against arsenic, radio-active phosphorus, the barbiturates including pentothal, the local anesthetics including metycaïne, the sulfonamides in-

cluding sulfomylon and promin, the antibodies including streptomycin and tyrothricin, and many other new drugs developed during the war period.

The outstanding section is on the hormones, it might be read by all interested in the use of endocrine preparations. Except for the small space devoted to mode of action, this section is unique among currently available textbooks. The section on the anterior pituitary is complete and up-to-date and avoids the complex factors involved in the various gonadotrophins. The section on the posterior pituitary is also timely. The section on the thyroid gland is complete except for reference to the role that the thyroid plays in promoting absorption. Thiouracil is briefly discussed with the intimation that it has definite drawbacks in chronic use. The section on the adrenal cortex reflects the interest of the senior author.

Unfortunately the section on toxicology does not include reference to the considerable number of economic poisons that are becoming problems in clinical practice.

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THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF BRONCHIAL ASTHMA. By Leslie N. Gay, M.D., Ph.B., Assistant Professor of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Director of the Allergy Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. With a forward by Warfield T. Longcope, A.B., M.D., Professor of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Physician-in-Chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Copyright 1946. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore. Price \$5.00.

This book is an excellent presentation of the subject of bronchial asthma, its diagnosis and treatment. It actually is a monograph on the subject because it does not deal with the other allergic syndrome. It is recommended to the general practitioner and specialist but it is too limited in its scope for the medical student. The arrangement of the text is excellent and is written with great clarity and in a readable manner. Dr. Gay uses case histories to demonstrate the many and sundry problems in treating bronchial asthma.

The chapter on physiology of normal respiration and the asthmatic state, written in simple and understandable language, covers the subject very thoroughly. The section on pathology is a review of the literature on the subject plus the author's own observations which covers the subject quite thoroughly.

Twenty of the 35 pages devoted to etiology are given to a discussion of pollens and their relation to bronchial asthma (which includes charts of pollen and spore counts). Very little consideration is given to the problem in regions other than the Atlantic Coast. Much of the space could have been devoted to other pollen problems of other areas. The illustrations are excellent and of practical value.

Much space is devoted to a discussion of therapy in treatment of bronchial asthma; a great deal of which is useless, having been discarded and of questionable value. It would have been better if the author had given this space to his own experience

and routine procedures in the treatment of bronchial asthma.

Very little mention is made of the new anti-histamine drugs and practically no discussion as to their value.

The allergy specialist will find much in this volume with which he will disagree, but there is a great deal of useful information. In conclusion one can say that here is another book on the subject.

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PRINCIPLES OF HEMATOLOGY. By Russell L. Haden, M.A., M.D. Third Edition, thoroughly revised, published 1946. Octavo, 366 pages, with 171 illustrations including 173 original photomicrographs and 95 original charts and drawings. Cloth, \$5.00. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa.

This is the third edition of a book on hematology written by a physician whose name has long been associated with diseases arising from disturbed hematopoiesis. Since Dr. Haden has contributed much to the techniques of hemoglobin estimation and the various blood indices, it would be anticipated that the section on techniques in this book would be outstanding. Such is the case, and the methods are so clearly described that it makes this book of value to students and physicians alike. The book is of practical value to the physician in that it is illustrated by 106 pertinent clinical abstracts illustrating various types of hematopoietic disorders. In addition, the newer knowledge concerning the etiology of various types of anemia is made readily understandable by simple graphic illustrations. As a background for a clinical interpretation of various blood disorders, Dr. Haden has emphasized the technique of aspiration of marrow and interpretation of film preparations.

It was with regret that this reviewer did not find some mention of the RH Factor since the author had done so much on the hemolytic anemias. The book in general will be found of value to student and physician alike.

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THE NATIONAL FORMULARY, Eighth Edition. Prepared by the Commission on National Formulary under the Supervision of the Council by authority of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Official from April 1, 1947. Published by the American Pharmaceutical Association, Washington 7, D. C. 1946. Price \$7.50.

In text arrangement, this eighth edition of the National Formulary, which on April 1, 1947, is officially to supersede the seventh edition, makes a notable departure from that used heretofore. Although monographs still are arranged in alphabetical sequence, in the new edition a monograph on a basic drug is followed by monographs on its official preparation. A marginal index is used to make the new arrangement easier to use. Another feature is that greater emphasis is put on the use of the metric system, although equivalents in the apothecaries system also are given.

Purpose of the new, as of preceding editions, is the establishment and promulgation of official standards for drugs.